

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

(Meth)acrylic monomers are separated by a thermal separation process by ascending at least one ascending gaseous stream in a separating column containing a sequence of mass transfer trays and a liquid stream that contains dissolved polymerization inhibitor which descends in the separating column, and at least one of the streams being (meth)acrylic monomers; and spraying the inner surface of the separating column with the descending liquid stream that contains the dissolved polymerization inhibitor, and the separating column having internals, certain areas of which are shadow regions of the sprayed descending liquid stream; and which shadow regions are equipped by covering means which prevent contact of the shadow regions with (meth)acrylic monomers and consequently undesired polymerization of monomer